

Education

Lead– Edith Mitko

The Utah State Office of Education and the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), includes pre-school, kindergarten-12th grade, adult education, and higher education, including Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT).

Goal 1-Governor Huntsman's Working Group on Student Achievement

The working group includes individuals from all over the State who will make recommendations on proposed legislation designed to have a measurable impact on the State's achievement gap.

Goal	To make recommendations to the Governor to improve ethnic student achievement.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit members from a diverse background to apply and serve on the Governor Huntsman's Working Group on Student Achievement. 2. Provide staff support to the working group from the State Office of Ethnic Affairs. 3. Coordinate town hall meetings throughout the State to facilitate community feedback regarding the group's recommendations.
Deliverable	By October 2005, Governor Huntsman's Working Group on Student Achievement will submit 3-5 written recommendations to the Governor.

Goal 2– Program for Ethnic Parental Involvement in Education

"Parental Involvement in Education" programs improve morale, attitudes, and academic performance on all grade levels and areas of education.

Goal	In partnership with local school districts, school boards, parent organizations, community-based organizations and school community councils, collaborate with existing parent involvement programs and implement an ethnic parental involvement model program.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify schools/school districts with the highest percentage of ethnic students. 2. In partnership with schools/school districts, parent organizations, and school community councils, identify model programs to strengthen local ethnic parental involvement. 3. Create and implement an outreach plan to assure successful participation of ethnic parents/guardians in parental involvement programs.
Deliverable	The adoption by four schools/school districts of an ethnic parental involvement program.

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Goal 3– Ethnic Parental Involvement in Education Summit

“Parental Involvement in Education” programs improve morale, attitudes, and academic performance on all grade levels and areas of education.

Goal	In partnership with local school districts, school boards, parent organizations, community-based organizations and school community councils, collaborate with existing parent involvement programs and co-sponsor a “Parent Reading Summit” to educate parents on the importance of reading with their children and best practices.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the geographical area in need of special support in terms of parental involvement. District leaders requested our assistance in the Orem and Alpine districts. 2. In partnership with USOE, schools/school districts, parent organizations, and school community councils provide sessions that teach parents how to read with their children and work with their teachers/schools to strengthen local ethnic parental involvement. 3. Create and implement an outreach plan to assure the successful participation of ethnic parents/guardians in the Parent Reading Summit.
Deliverable	A Parent Reading Summit with both day and evening sessions for accessibility for working parents/guardians.

Goal 4 – Increase the Enrollment of Ethnic Students in Teacher Education Programs.

Test scores for Utah ethnic students are far below the national averages. Research based studies indicate that at-risk students perform better when they are taught by well-qualified professionals from the ethnic community.

Goal	Increase the number of ethnic college students in education programs by modifying current practices and programs that provide incentives for teacher education.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify current incentive programs and best practices in attracting ethnic students for teacher education. 2. Partner with Utah State Office of Education and State Board of Regents to implement any needed modifications. 3. Create and implement an outreach plan to educate ethnic college students of these educational opportunities.
Deliverable	Increase the enrollment of ethnic college students in teacher education programs based on the data collected by Utah System of Higher Education.

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Goal 5- Education Resource Guide

To prepare a resource guide that provides information that allows parents/guardians and students to make informed decisions regarding education (pre-K through graduate degrees) in Utah.

Goal	To provide a culturally competent and user-friendly resource guide for students and their parents/guardians that guides them through public and higher education systems.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form partnerships with USOE, school districts and institutions of higher education. 2. Identify current resources for each level of education. 3. Prepare an electronic format for a web-based resource directory that is culturally competent and user-friendly.
Deliverable	A resource handbook/website that will assist parents/guardians and students in making decisions regarding their success in public and higher education.

Goal 6- Ethnic Student Recognition & Family Education Conference

Two regional conferences that will include ethnic students and educators, and provide a mechanism for recognition, workshops and information booths.

Goal	<p>To recognize ethnic students and educators who have made outstanding achievements in one or more of the following areas: academics, athletics, community service and cultural arts.</p> <p>Provide access and resources to students and families that will support and encourage success for all students through pre K-16.</p>
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate the ethnic community decision-making process to determine the recognition award criteria. 2. Create and implement an outreach plan to assure the successful participation and nomination of deserving ethnic students. 3. Collaborate with local community-based organizations, school districts, higher education institutions, and businesses in planning and presenting these conferences.
Deliverable	Recognize at least 100 ethnic students and five educators at each regional conference. Provide relevant and understandable information on such topics as: UBSCT, UPASS, NCLB, Financial Aid, Core Curriculum, and the importance of parental/adult involvement. Establish a panel of experts to answer questions on Utah's system of public and higher education.

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Goal 7 – CALFNES Tool (Computer Assisted Literacy for Non-English Speakers)

This is a bilingual (English/Spanish) computing and literacy (English as a Second Language (ESL)) course designed to introduce the student to the world of computers, with a broad overview of basics and their use in word processing, electronic mail and internet access.

**Tool offered by Utah State University Extension.*

Goal	To implement CALFNES program as a learning tool in a site with high percentages of English Language Learners (ELL) students.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a site that will host the CALFNES program. 2. Recruit an instructor for the CALFNES program. 3. Create and implement an outreach plan to assure successful participation of ELL students in the CALFNES program.
Deliverable	Coordinate implementation efforts to make CALFNES program available at the identified site.

Goal 8- Literacy Backpacks

"Read With a Child" was the Early Literacy Initiative of the Commission on Literacy. Data based research indicated the foundation for reading must be laid in the early years (0 – 3 years old). The single most important activity for success in reading is reading aloud to children. The literacy backpacks are made available to support parents/guardians/adults in their role as their child's first teacher.

Goal	Increase the number of ethnic parents who receive the orientation in the use of the resources in the Commission on Literacy's "Literacy Backpacks". The Literacy Backpacks include: "You are your Child's First Teacher", a literacy video tape, magnetic reminders to read with your child 20 minutes a day, and other appropriate literacy/ infant items.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Title I schools with a high percentage of ethnic students. 2. Train staff to conduct parent orientation and proper use of the literacy resources in the backpacks. 3. Create and implement an outreach plan to assure successful participation of ethnic parents.
Deliverable	To distribute 500 Literacy Backpacks (English and Spanish versions) across the State, targeting ethnic parents.

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Goal 9– English as Second Language Endorsement Standards

The State Office of Ethnic Affairs and State Ethnic Advisory Councils will create a report on ESL endorsement standards effectiveness and best practices on bilingual endorsements.

Goal	Partner with the Coalition of Minority Advisory Committee (CMAC) to assess the current ESL endorsement standards and identify effective bilingual endorsements and make recommendations to USOE staff and State Board of Education.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify previous studies on ESL endorsements and bilingual endorsements. 2. Identify districts that currently track teachers by endorsements. 3. Gather and evaluate existing data on endorsements. 4. Identify bilingual endorsement best practices.
Deliverable	Present a report from the Office of Ethnic Affairs and the State Ethnic Advisory Councils with findings and recommendations to the USOE staff and State Board of Education.

Goal 10 – “Power in You” Ambassador Program

The “Power-in-You” is A Kid-to-Kid, Heart-to-Heart program developed by Utah's First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman that uses mentors to help prevent students from participating in self-destructive activities.

Goal	Help introduce the “Power in You” program to schools with a high percentage of ethnic students.
Action Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Title I middle schools and high schools with a high percentage of ethnic students. 2. Coordinate with the “Power in You” program to assure high participation of ethnic ambassadors. 3. Create and implement an outreach plan to assure successful participation of ethnic ambassador presentations.
Deliverable	Ethnic ambassador presentations at four regions with a high percentage of ethnic students.